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Weſtminſter,

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A JUST

NARRATIVE

OF THE HELLISH

New Counter-Plots

OF THE

PAPISTS,

To cast the Odium of their

HORRID TREASONS

UPON THE

PRESBYTERIANS:

And under that Notion,

To involve many Hundreds of the most considerable Protestant Nobility and Gentry in a General Ruine.

With an Account of their particular Intreigues, Carried on to insnare Mr. *Blood*, and several other considerable Persons, with the happy Discoveries thereof.

LONDON:

Printed for *Dorman Newman*, at the *Kings-Arms* in the *Poultrey*. 1679.

A JUST NARRATIVE OF THE NEW Popiſh Counter-Plot,

OR,

The Damnable deſign, To caſt the Odium of their curſed Conſpiracy on the *Presbyterians*, &c.

THE more *Helliſh* the Conſpiracy, the more *Divine* the preſervation. If ever people had reaſon with humbleſt gratitude to acknowledg *Digitus Dei*, the Immediate *Hand of God* ſignally appearing for their deliverance, certainly theſe *Three Nations* of *England*, *Scotland* and *Ireland*, and conſequently the *Proteſtant Intereſt* throughout the world (notwithſtanding their deplorable provocations of the Moſt High) have now the greateſt *Obligations*, and the moſt immediate *Calls*, to expreſs their thankfulneſs to the *Supreme Providence*, for thoſe wonderful and unexpectable diſappointments of their reſtleſs, implacable, and moſt ſubtil Enemies.

'Tis no new Art for wicked men to endeavour to ſhrowd their own Crimes, by ſcandalizing the Guiltleſs; and carry on their villanous deſigns in Maſquerade; to lay their *ſpurious-Brats* at honeſt mens doors, and caſt the *odium* of their curſed enterpriſes on the *Innocent*. When that deſperate Traytor, *Cataline* (more than Sixteen hundred years ago) was detected, he *out-brazen'd* the charge, to the Beards of the Senators; and had not the *mighty Cato* ſtept in, to countenance and ſupport the *Evidence*, honeſt *Cicero* had been *bawk'd* in the proſecution, by the *clamours* of that Ruffian. When *Nero* (that

Monſter of mankind) had fired *Rome* in a frolick, he very ſeriouſly *filed* the Crime to the Chriſtians *Account*, and cauſed thoſe harmleſs people to be *tortur'd* for his Diabolical Extravagance. To come nearer home, The notorious Popiſh *Gunpowder-Plot* (had it ſucceeded) was to have been flung upon the *Puritans:* And when *London* was to be deſtroyed by *Romiſh* Incendiaries in *66*, a parcel of poor ſilly Fanaticks were firſt wheadled in to bear the blame of it, of whom ſome were deſignedly diſcovered by theſe grand Architects of miſchief, and Hang'd the *April* before the villany was actually put in Execution.

That purſuant to theſe accuſtomed Methods, it was part of the original Conſpiracy of the Jeſuits, when they ſhould have Aſſaſſinated the King (whoſe Life God long preſerve) to have preſently raiſed an out-cry againſt the Presbyterians and Diſſenters, charging them with the Treaſon and Murther, thereby to irritate the Epiſcopal Party to deſtroy them ; which being done, and the Proteſtant Intereſt by that means narrowed, ſcandalized and weakned, the *Epiſcopiſts* turn was to be next, who themſelves would then more eaſily become a prey : And that to countenance ſuch pretences, ſtirs were to be promoted, and a Rebellion, at any rate, procured in *Scotland*, is evident, not only from the depoſitions given in upon the firſt diſcovery by Dr. *Oats*, and atteſted likewiſe by Mr. *Dugdale* ; but alſo unhappily confirmed ſince by matter of Fact : And when God was pleaſed to confound their Councels, and fruſtrate ſuch their *primary Machinations*, then *this part* of their Plot was to be uſed as a Cloak to conceal the *reſt*, and carry on the ſame torrent of Treaſon in a different *Channel*. They could find no fitter Artifice to palliate their odious *Guilt*, than by ſolemn Appeals to Heaven of *Innocency*, binding up their dying *Trayterous Aſſociates* to ſeal notorious *Lies* with their *laſt breath* ; whilſt their ſurviving Emiſſaries by ſwarms of impudent Pamphlets and induſtrious *Whiſpers*, ſtarted ſlanders no leſs groundleſs than abominable, on diſſenting Proteſtants ; and would needs make the World believe all was but *Trick and Stratagem*, a deſign forſooth againſt the poor innocent Catholicks, that through their ſides they might wound and invade the *Government*. Thus by

a nenting *fears* and *jealouſies*, they hoped to divert the proſe-

for n, and evade the puniſhments juſtly due to their horrid

cutic *Con-*

Conſpiracy, and engage Authority in ſeverities againſt ſuch as they well knew were the moſt reſolute *oppoſers* of their infernal projects.

In order to this they have left no Stone unturn'd, no Policy unattempted; the Kings Witneſſes were ſometimes threatned and Brow-beaten, ſometimes cajol'd and tamper'd with: Firſt Mr. *Bedloe* was carried into a Cloſet, by a then *great man*, and offered vaſt ſums of *money* to renounce his Evidence; then were Dr. *Oats*'s *Papers* all taken from him and ranſack'd, under the notion of apprehenſions of a *Presbyterian-Plot*; but theſe Arts of *affrighting* or *debauching* them from their duty failing, and no tract or ſymptoms of any ill-practiſes from the Nonconformiſts being able to be made appear, they next reſolve to *make* what they cannot *find*, and by pure *dint of ſwearing*, to create a new imaginary Plot, and lay the load wholly on the Diſſenters.

Amongſt others, *Netterville*, a Priſoner in the *Marſhelſeys*, and one *Ruſſel*, were to manage this contrivance; who in *December* laſt attempted to Bribe Alderman *Brooks* and Captain *Bury* with large ſums of money to forſwear themſelves, and depoſe it to be a *Presbyterian-Plot*, contrived by Mr. *Blood*, Dr. *Oats*, Mr. *Bedloe*, *&c.* But thoſe two Gentlemen were perſons of greater Honour and Integrity, than to ingage in ſuch a villanous undertaking; and each of them diſcovered it, before he knew the *other* was privy thereunto: So that for that time the malice of the Confederates proved *Abortive*.

Such diſappointments, one would have thought, would have been ſufficient *diſcouragements*, and might have warned the Conſpirators to have deſiſted from ſuch their lewd practiſes for the future; but it ſeems the *Ring-leading Popiſh Traytors*, thought it ſo advantageous, and eſſentially neceſſary to their Cauſe, to caſt an *odium* on the *Presbyterians*, and under that pretence to gain an opportunity of *ſecuring* and *ruining* the moſt *ſober* and *conſiderable* Proteſtants throughout the Nation, that nothing could deter them from proſecuting that helliſh deſign: So that of late they revived the ſame, and by freſh methods, and ſeveral new inſtruments, attempted it more vigorouſly than ever before; and particularly *whetted* the edge of their Revenge againſt the before-mentioned Mr. *Blood*, as knowing him to be a zealous oppoſer of their diveliſh deſigns. To ruine him therefore, and withal play

their

their old baffled Game, a distinct Stratagem was laid, but providentially detected in manner following.

One *Courtees*, by some called Captain *Courtees*, having by insinuating Arts, a fair outside, and large pretences to *honesty*, and affection for the *Protestant Interest*, gained admission into a *Club* of sober able men, amongst whom 'tis apparent he was *designedly* sent, That by knowledg of Faces, and certain innocent Circumstances, he might the better be enabled to render any falshoods that he should impose upon them, or charge them with, more plausible to be believed; and thereby not only ruine these loyal, substantial people, but also make way for, and facilitate their grand design, of first Creating, and then pretending to discover an imaginary *Presbyterian-Plot*; being, I say, only once received into their Company, *viz.* on *Friday* last was Three weeks, he the said *Courtees*, goes the next day after to the Tavern commonly called *Heaven*, in the *Old Palace-Yard Westminster*, and knowing the Woman of the House, and that she was well *acquainted* with several Gentlemen that were at the before-mentioned *Clubb*, he endeavoured to inveigle her to bring him more intimately acquainted with them; which she, not mistrusting his base and treacherous intentions, civilly promised to do, as far as lay in her way or power; but in the process of their discourse, some talk being raised between them concerning *News*, he told her, That she should very shortly see the *Plot*, which had made so much noise, be turned upon the *Presbyterians*. Which words sounding to her very strange and surprizing, she demanded of him, how, or which way this should come about? He replied, That there was an Army privately raising, and *Commissions* for that purpose to be given out by thar party, to be imployed against the King, and to subvert the present Government. The Woman was not a little astonished at this Relation, and therefore demanded of him by whom such Commissions were to be delivered? He answered, by Mr. *Blood:* And then proceeded to tell her, That if she were, or would be instrumental by her Interest in some of the persons belonging to the aforesaid *Clubb*, to *procure a Commission* from Mr. *Blood*, to the degree of an Ensign, she should be well rewarded, to the value of 100 *l.* which he would freely bestow upon her, out of 5000 *l.* which he said, he and some others were to have for the doing it; and that one way or other,

they

they were reſolved to fix it upon them: but if ſhe would be aſſiſtant, ſhe ſhould be nobly gratified as aforeſaid. The Woman by theſe, and ſome other Diſcourſes much to the ſame purpoſe, perceiving the *wickedneſs* of his intention, falſly to accuſe and deſtroy Mr. *Blood*, with ſeveral of her honeſt Neighborhood, ſeem'd to hearken to his propoſals, and appeared very inquiſitive to know if ſhe might be certain of ſuch a *Reward* as he mentioned, and which way the *money* ſhould be paid. Whereupon he told her, that ſhe need not fear, or have any diſtruſt as to that matter, for the *money was ready*, and depoſited in ſubſtantial and unqueſtionable hands. With which, making as if ſhe were ſatisfied, ſhe replied, ſhe *would do what ſhe could in the caſe*; And he promiſing to call upon her again to know the *ſucceſs*, and *treat further* of the matter, their conference for that time concluded. And the good Woman hath ſince declared and averr'd, That all the night following, *viz.* the ſaid *Saturday*-night ſhe could not take any *Reſt*, ſo much troubled and diſquieted ſhe was with the horror of the buſineſs; and therefore though ſhe had never ſpake with Mr. *Blood* Three words in all her life at a time, nor ever exchang'd any diſcourſe at all with him, unleſs it were for a Diſh of Broth, or ſuch-like Accomodations uſually ſold there in Parliament-time; yet on the *Sunday* (being the next day following) ſhe ſent a perſon to Mr. *Blood*, who was wholly a ſtranger to him, and only told him, That the woman that kept the Tavern call'd *Heaven*, in the *Old Palace-yard*, had a great deſire to ſpeak with him about very earneſt buſineſs: Mr. *Blood* having ſo little acquaintance, and no concerns with her, could not apprehend any thing of *moment* in it, but ſuſpecting that according to the uſual way of ſuch people, it might be to deſire ſome perſonal kindneſſes of him, told the Meſſenger very ſlightingly, That ſometime or other, when he came by that way, he would call there. Yet on the *Munday*, not dreaming of any matter of concernment, forgot ſo to do: But recalling it to mind on the *Tueſday*, did go thither, and then and there to his amazement received this Narrative from the ſaid woman, concerning the diſcourſe that had paſſed between her and *Courtees*; and ha-

ving heard it, and ſhe being ſo much a ſtranger to him as aforeſaid, the ſaid Mr. *Blood* only deſired of her, to be *upright* and *honeſt*, and he would give her further inſtructions how to behave her ſelf in it, ſo as to find out the bottom of the intended villany, and by whom this *Courtees* might be imployed, with other circumſtances requiſite for a full diſcovery. The following evening Mr. *Blood* repaired to the aforeſaid *Clubb* (where he had uſed to appear but very *ſeldom*, not above *once a week* or *fortnight*) but now went in hopes to meet ſome of the perſons that were *acquainted* with this *Courtees*, and his being in their Society; and according to ſuch expectation, meeting there with an honeſt Gentleman who introduced *Courtees* on the Night before-mentioned, amongſt them; and alſo with another perſon of *conſiderable Quality* and undoubted Integrity; he took thoſe two along with him to the ſaid Woman at *Heaven*, and deſired them to ask her concerning the ſaid *Coutees*'s Application to her, which they did; and ſhe punctually related to them all the whole Tranſaction, and the Diſcourſes that had paſſed between them, as aforeſaid.

Hereupon, they and Mr. *Blood* plainly ſeeing that their *Lives*, their *Friends*, their *Eſtates*, and *Reputation*, were all deſigned to be ſacrificed by the curſed contrivances of theſe Popiſh and Mercinary Villains, began ſeriouſly to conſider what was next to be done, in a courſe of honeſty and prudence, to obviate and *prevent* ſuch their helliſh deſigns; and though they had a deſire to let the buſineſs *ripen* a little further, that they might bring it to a better pitch for diſcovery, without making a noiſe; yet not knowing but the Execution thereof might be *nearer* than was apprehended, they judged it to be proper for the avoiding of ruine to ſo many innocent worthy perſons, to give notice thereof to the *King*, or one of his principal *Secretaries* of State; without which, if they ſhould venture to proceed to tamper with *Countermining* the ſaid *Trepanning-Rogues*, they might poſſibly, on a ſudden, be ſurprized and enſnared themſelves, without being able ſo fairly to detect the *Conſpiracy:* According to this diſcreet and *dutiful* reſolve, Mr. *Blood*, by the advice of his Friends,

went

went to know the Kings pleaſure what to do in it, who was graciouſly pleaſed to encourage him to ſee the bottom of it; and accordingly Mr. *Blood* proceeded: He with his ſaid Friends deſiring the Woman to continue her correſpondence with *Courtees*, and by giving him fair hopes of joyning with him, and *advancing* his buſineſs, to fiſh out what was the true *end* of their deſign, upon what *Foot* it ſtood, and who were the *Original Managers*. Accordingly the ſaid *Courtees* came freequently to her, who converſed with him ſeveral times very freely, inſomuch that he told her, That to his knowledg, there were *Eight* of them imployed in the *ſame Game*. And 'tis not doubted, but the Woman might have been able to have got a particular Account of them all, and other material circumſtances in a very ſhort time, had not ſome Accidents happen'd juſt in the nick of time, which made him much more cautious, and interrupted their correſpondence.

For the Conſpirators to carry on their Grand Intrigue, and compleat their bloody deſigned Tragedy, were neceſſitated to make uſe of ſeveral different *Machines*, and diſtinct *Scenes* of miſchief, which though harmoniouſly laid, and manag'd in ſubſerviency to each other by their *ſupreme Counſels*, yet 'tis very probable the *petty* Inſtruments were kept ignorant of all *other* devices that were upon the Wheel, beſides what they were imployed about; theſe *little Divels* being confined by their *Maſter-Conjurers*, each to his particular *Circle*. Amongſt the reſt, one project they had, for the utter *ſtifling* all further proſecution of their horrid Plot againſt his Majeſties Perſon, and the eſtabliſhed Religion and Government, by endeavouring to Corrupt and Bribe Mr. *Stephen Dugdale* (one of the Kings moſt material witneſſes) to retract and diſown the Evidence which he had honeſtly given againſt ſeveral of the Popiſh Traytors, and their Plot in general, and not to appear againſt them hereafter; They knew nothing could have more revived their wounded Cauſe, than ſuch a mortal ſtab upon the Credit of the Diſcoverers; this would fluſh their own Party, and amuſe Proteſtants, and give ſome colour to the Jeſuitical out-cries of Cruelty and Perjury: They reſolved therefore to tempt him, as their Tutor,

Tutor, the *Old Serpent*, did *Adam* (when at once he ſtript him of *Innocence* and *Paradiſe*) by the mediation of a Woman, ſuborning a *Bigotted Lady*, for whom 'tis ſaid Mr. *Dugdale* had formerly ſome kindneſs, or at leaſt an intimate and particular Acquaintance, to inveigle and betray him; who according to the inſtructions of her *Ghoſtly Fathers*, attacqued him with all the Rhetorick, Flattery, and great Promiſes imaginable; but this generous *Sampſon* was ſo firmly contracted to *Truth*, *Vertue* and *Loyalty*, as not to ſuffer himſelf to be *divorced*, or drawn aſide by the charms of any *Delilah*; but perceiving her *Drift*, held her in hand with a ſeeming compliance to thoſe general overtures which ſhe offered; whereby being ſomewhat encouraged, a Gentleman was ordered to treat with him on the ſame Subject, ſeveral Conferences they had, managed on either ſide with great caution and circumſpection: at laſt they came to particulars, *viz.* That Mr. *Dugdale* ſhould Sign and Seal a certain Paper of Recantation, ſuch as they ſhould prepare for him, upon which he ſhould receive ſuch a great ſum of Money, and immediately withdraw himſelf beyond the Seas, they naming *Spain* as the moſt proper place, where he was Honourably to be entertain'd; and after ſome time, when they had plaid their Game here, he was to *come back*, and then to have not only *Pardon*, but *Honour* conferred upon him, with more *Money*, as a further Reward for this excellent *Jobb* of good ſervice for the Catholick Intereſt. The Paper tendred him to Subſcribe, was of the purport following.

BEing touched with a true Remorſe of Conſcience, and an hearty ſorrow for the great Evil I have done, in appearing as a Witneſs againſt the Catholicks, and there ſpeaking that which in my own Conſcience I know to be far from the Truth; I think my ſelf bound in Duty to God, to Men, and for the ſafety of my own Soul, to make true acknowledgment how I was drawn into theſe wicked Actions; but being well ſatisfied that I ſhall

I ſhall create my ſelf many powerful Enemies upon this Account, I have retired my ſelf to a place of ſafety, where I will with my own hand diſcover the great wrong that has been done the Catholicks, and hope it may gain belief. I do likewiſe proteſt before Almighty God, That I have no motive to induce me to this Confeſſion, but a true Repentance for the miſchiefs that I have done, and do hope that God Almighty will forgive me.

Thoſe that have to do with Jeſuits and their Diſciples, had need to have as well the *prudence of Serpents*, as the *innocence of Doves*; and Mr. *Dugdale* in the Conduct of this Affair, made it appear he was not unfurniſhed of *both*; for as he was more *honeſt* than to abandon his Duty, and cloſe with their deſires on *any Terms* whatſoever; ſo he was *too wiſe* not to ſee the *Hook* through the ſpecious *Bait* of their Propoſals; and without conſulting an Aſtrologer, might predict what kind of entertainment he was like to meet with in *Spain*; however he gave no ſigns of Averſion, only objected the difficulty and uncertainty of his getting the Reward promiſed him, for that he did not eſteem theſe Propoſers to be of *ſufficient Ability* to make good the ſame, and therefore demanded better ſecurity: Then a Catholick Ambaſſador was propounded, who ſhould engage to ſee the Money paid; but Mr. *Dugdale* told them, he did not think that either *proper* or *ſatisfactory*; for that being Miniſter of State to a foreign Prince, and only Reſident here *pro Tempore*, he might happen to be called home on a ſudden, and no Remedy to be had againſt him: Then divers others were propoſed who ſhould give him Aſſurances of true performance of the Terms on their part; but ſtill he found ſome plauſible *Exception* or other to make againſt them, and gain time; ſo that at laſt, thoſe that were imployed thus to debauch him, obſerving the ſtudied *delays* and *evaſions* he made to ſign the before-recited Retraction, and therefore ſuſpecting, that in truth he never intended it,

but rather, That they were like to have the ſecond part of *Readings* unlucky Game plaid upon them, by his making a diſcovery of this their new Contrivance, inſtead of diſowning his former Evidence; They thereupon reſolved to be before-hand with him, and by the mediation of a perſon of *Great Quality*, made a complaint againſt Mr. *Dugdale*, exaggerating the matter with Tragical exclamations of the lamentable *wrongs* the poor *Catholicks* had ſuffered, by being Reproached and Condemned upon the Evidence of *ſuch Witneſſes*, who, for a ſum of *Money*, would under their hands declare the utter falſity of what they had Sworn, and Sign a *Recantation*, and then run away, *&c.* For proof hereof, they were ready to produce their before-mentioned *Tools* whom they had thus ſet to work to corrupt him, and to inſtance the ſeveral circumſtances of their meetings to confirm the ſame. Hereupon Mr. *Dugdale* was ſent for, and acquainted with the Accuſation laid to his charge, who having all-along prepared for his Juſt Vindication in this behalf, by diſcovering to divers *truſty perſons* of Quality and undoubted Credit, the ſeveral overtures and paſſages before ſet forth from time to time, as they happened, and managed the Affair not without their Advice and Direction, did then give an ample and ſatisfactory Account to His Majeſty and the Council of the whole Tranſaction, and his proceeding therein, and alſo nominated his Witneſſes, who were ſo privy thereunto, and were ready to prove the ſame, ſome of them being in the Commiſſion of the Peace, and all of good Worth and Repute; ſo that upon a plenary Hearing and Debate of the matter, Mr. *Dugdale* was clearly Acquitted from the Aſperſions of the Information brought againſt him: But on the other ſide, it plainly appearing that there had been foul practiſes to take off and ſtifle his Evidence in manner aforeſaid, Mrs. *Price*, and Mr. *Tesbrough*, the Two Agents employed to effect the ſame, and who had held ſuch Correſpondencies for that purpoſe, were both committed to ſafe Cuſtody.

This *ſeaſonable Diſcovery* was part of that which Alarm'd the before-mentioned *Courtees* to be more wary in his Diſcourſes, and not a little diſcouraged the *Top-Conſpirators*, who

who now could not, after ſo many miraculous fruſtrations, but reflect in their Guilty Conſciences on that ſaying of *Zereſh*, *Haman's* Wife,----*If Mordecai be of the ſeed of the Jews before whom thou haſt begun to fall, thou ſhalt not prevail againſt him, but ſhalt ſurely fall before him:* Which was more apparent, by another (for us happy) diſaſter that befell them within Three or four days after; For knowing they had no way to keep up the Reputation of their *languiſhing Intereſt*, but by ſhifting off the *odious Plot*, and fixing it upon *diſſenting Proteſtants*, They had not only by inſinuating Diſcourſes, and many Printed *Libels*, ſuch as---*The Cloak in its Colours*; *The New Plot of the Papiſts to Transform Traitors into Martyrs*; *Naboths Vineyard*; *The Compendium*, *&c.* (For the ſeizing and *ſuppreſſing* whereof, 'tis *wiſhed* there may have as much *diligence* been uſed, as there have been unhappy *attempts* for ſtifling *Innocent uſeful* Papers, deſigned only as *Antidotes* to preſerve people from venomous *Popery*, and the infections of ſuch Contagious, Treaſonable, and truly *Seditious Paſquils*) But alſo after theſe notable Preparatives, had laid and formed a *model* of wickedneſs, falſhood and perjury, or a New *Helliſh deſign* to make the ſame appear credible to the World; They had Liſted the Names of many of the moſt *eminent Proteſtant Nobility* and *Gentry* in the Kingdom, at leaſt ſuch as have appeared the moſt *Active* in proſecuting their Popiſh-Plot, and (juſt as in the *Tables* of *Proſcription* amongſt the old *Roman* Tyrants) ſet their *Lives* to ſale, to every mercenary *Catholick Knight of the Poſt*, or *Iriſh Ruffian* that would come in, for a *Bribe*, either to *Aſſaſſinate* or *Swear* againſt them: And that nothing might be wanting, they had already prepared both the *falſe Articles*, and againſt every particular mans name, a Brace or more of *Villains*, whoſe proſtituted *Oaths* were to prove the matters charged. But firſt His Majeſty (upon whoſe Sacred Life (under God) the fate of the Proteſtant Religion ſeems to depend) was to be cut off by their *Impious* hands, and with him ſeveral of the moſt Intelligent and zealous Proteſtant *Nobility*; which horrid *Butcheries* were with loud Clamours to be caſt upon the *Fanaticks*, and immediately the Plot to be actually *Broached*; ſome of their own Inſtruments *ſeized*,

to

to add to its confirmation by a pretended Diſcovery, the prepared *Muſter-rolls*, and other forged Papers of *Treaſon* to be produced, and all the moſt conſiderable Proteſtants to be ſecured under the pretext of being *Presbyterian Traitors*; For by the way, it is well worthy of obſervation, That though *that Perſwaſion* was to bear all the Scandal and *Reproach*, yet the Honeſt *Epiſcopiſts* were deſigned to drink as deep as they of the *Cup of miſery*: for in their *Fatal Roll* there were nominated far more perſons that were conſtant adherents unto, and undoubted Sons of the Church of *England*, both in reſpect of its Doctrine and *Diſcipline*, than there were of thoſe commonly called *Presbyterians*.

Amongſt other *Wretches* ſet at work to proſecute this Deſign, there was one Mr. *Dangerfield*, *alias Willoughby*, *alias Day*, *alias Thomas*, a perſon infamouſly *famous* for the former Extravagances and Ill-practiſes of his Life, which had more than once rendred him obnoxious to the *Juſtice* of the Law, and ſubject to *Ignominious* puniſhments; but ſo much the *fitter* an Inſtrument to engage in ſuch an undertaking, which any man of *Common Honeſty* would *Bluſh* to hear of, and *abominate* to be concerned in; Being naturally of a *bold* enterpriſing Temper, a *deſperate* Fortune, a brisk *Genteel* Carriage, a *voluble* Tongue, *Et verſatilis Ingenii*, Maſter of a notable debauched *Wit*, as well as matchleſs *Confidence*, to go through with the moſt nefarious Attempts, ſome of the *principal Conſpirators* made choice of him as a *proper Agent* to put in practice what they had ſubtilly Contrived, at leaſt as a *Forn-lorn Hope* before their *main Body* of Treachery: He had but very lately got out of *Newgate*, and preſently after was Clapt up in the *Kings-bench* for Debt, whence he was *redeemed* by the *Charitable Benevolence* of ſome *Roman Catholicks*; and further to engage him, was put into a *Courtly Equipage*, and highly Careſſed by ſeveral notable *She-ſticklers* of the *Red-Letter*, not to mention other more *private* and endearing obligations. Having thus prepared and Tutor'd him in ſecret as to the Part he was to Act, both as to Murther and Treaſon, and obtained upon ſome ſpecious pretences an *Allowance* of Money for his encouragement, he readily embraced the offer,

offer, and diligently (though bleſſed the ever watchful and moſt Gracious *Providence* of Heaven *unſuccesfully*) applied himſelf to the work; one of his firſt exploits was to be executed upon *Collonel Manſell*, though what ſhould induce them to make choice of that Gentleman for their prime Sacrifice, may ſeem a Riddle, He being, as 'tis well known, a perſon of approved *Loyalty*; and though of a *ſober* Converſation and true *Engliſh Spirit*, yet far from any *diſaffected* Principles; which yet need be no *miracle*, if we conſider *Juſtice Godfry's Murther*, and that their Malice was Levelled at Proteſtants in *General*. The ſaid Collonel Lodging in *Axe-yard Weſtminſter*, Mr. *Dangerfield*, by the name of *Willoughby*, repaired to the ſame Houſe, and having learned that the Gentlewoman that inhabited it, had ſome intentions to leave it, pretended to *hire* it, and treated with her on that Acccount, giving out, that he was a Country Gentleman, and that his Family was to come up to Town about a Fortnight afterwards: In Diſcourſe he enquired what Lodgers ſhe had, and whether they would be willing to remove, for that he ſhould have occaſion for the whole Houſe; The Gentlewoman told him, there was only a very honeſt Gentleman naming the ſaid Collonel that lay in ſuch a Chamber, who ſhe did not doubt but, for her conveniency of putting of her Houſe, would be willing to quit his Lodging; however Mr. *Willoughby* would needs take a Chamber of her for the preſent for his own Accommodation, and did lie there that Night; the next Morning obſerving the Collonel gone forth, and the Maid come up to clean the Room, he went in to ſee it, and then cauſed the Wench to go down to call up her Miſtreſs, in which time, 'tis probable he placed behind the Bed a parcel of *Letters*, about Nine or Ten in all, whereof ſome in Characters, and the reſt in different hands, directed to, and from divers perſons accounted Diſſenting Proteſtants, filled with Contents of a dangerous and *Treaſonable* Nature, as tending to the forming of an Army, *&c.* The next Night he brought one Captain *Bedford* to Lodg with him, 'tis believed with a deſign that he might have the better *Evidence*; for in the mean time he had repaired to ſome Officers belonging to the *Cuſtom-houſe*, and acquainted them

 that

that in ſuch a Gentlemans Chamber in *Axe-yard* there were *French*-Laces and other *prohibited Goods* to a great value, concealed; and appointed them to come next morning to *ſearch*; But they not calling ſo *early* as he expected, he was very reſtleſs, and expreſt much diſatisfaction to Capt. *Bedford* (who was wholly ignorant of this Intriegue) that the Gentlemen he waited for, diſappointed him; but at laſt they came, and readily went to ſearch the Collonels Room in his abſence, *Willoughby* putting himſelf very officiouſly amongſt them, but nothing could they find that they ſought for, only one of them happening upon an ordinary Letter, he could not forbear ſaying, he *would warrant there was Treaſon in it*, or to that effect; but no ſuch thing appearing, he moved them to remove the Bed, and behind it plucked out the before-mentioned Pacquet, and made a great ſtir of *Treaſon*, to the no ſmall aſtoniſhment of the Officers, who declared, they came not to look for Treaſon, but prohibited or uncuſtomed Goods; However the Papers were taken away, and after ſome time communicated to Authority: Of which, the Collonel having notice, and ſome Information gained of Mr. *Willoughby's Quality*, cauſed him to be brought upon Examination, and then demonſtrated the fraudulent treacherouſneſs of the Deſign ſo ſatisfactorily, That *Willoughby* was taken into Cuſtody, it being particularly diſcovered, that immediately on his being queſtioned, he diſpatched away his Footboy (for he was arrived to that neceſſary *Implement* of Gentility) to the Lady *Powis*, to accquaint her that he was apprehended, but would continue *firm and conſtant* to her Intereſt, and (at worſt) take the whole matter upon himſelf.

When he was next Examined, Captain *Richardſon*, Maſter-Keeper of *Newgate*, and others, gave an Account of his former Pranks; and the before-mentioned Mr. *Bedford* teſtified, That he would have Bribed him to have joined with him in Swearing Treaſonable words againſt Sir *Thomas Player*, to take away the Life of that worthy Proteſtant, and Loyal Citizen. The Priſoner hitherto reſolutely denied all, but was then ſent to *Newgate*; and it being found, that his late Lodging had been at one Mrs. *Celiers*, the Wife

Wife of a *French* Merchant, but for divers years paſt turn'd *Midwife*, and very famous amongſt Catholick Ladies, particularly intimate with the Counteſs of *Powis*, and dwelling in *Arundel Buildings*; Sir *William Waller* (to whom for his vigilant Activity, Zeal and Courage for the Proteſtant Intereſt, *After-ages* ſhall by a juſt Tribute of *Honour*, Attone for the Ingratitude of *This*) thought fit with ſeveral conſiderable perſons to repair thither, and ſtrictly ſearch her Houſe, where at laſt they found a *Manuſcript Book* hidden in a parcel of *Meal*, containing the whole *Scheme* or *Model* of the Helliſh Plot, which they had forged and deſigned to fix upon the Proteſtants, under the Reproach of *Presbyterians*; The names of ſuch as they would pretend were to be Chief Commanders in an Army to be raiſed, wherein they had involved the moſt eminent Proteſtants, as his Grace the Duke of *Monmouth* ſet down for Generals, the Lord *Brandon* and Sir *Thomas Armſtrong* Lieutenant Generals, Sir *William Waller* and Mr. *Blood* Major General, *&c.* with others to the number of above 500 by name; amongſt whom ſeveral perſons of Honour, divers principal Citizens, and many Country Gentlemen of plentiful Fortunes and moſt Loyal Integrity: In a word, all the moſt Active oppoſers of the Popiſh Intereſt were herein marked out for deſtruction, and the names of falſe-Witneſſes prepared to Swear againſt them reſpectively (whereof ſome are taken, and Warrants out for the apprehenſion of others). But whereas there was a flying Report, that by this Book, or ſome other Papers ſeized by Sir *William Waller*, it ſhould appear, That Mr. *Blood* was named by Confederacy, and was to be *ſeized on, and ſo Impriſoned and Convicted of the ſame Plot, and then that he ſhould pretend to diſcover the whole, under a Colour of the Reality of the thing, and Accuſe others, &c.* ſuch Reports are *utterly falſe*, and no ſuch thing found in the Papers taken by Sir *William Waller*.

This Book, and conſequently Mrs. *Celier* being ſeized, on *Friday* the laſt of *October*, Mr. *Dangerfield* made ſome Application to be brought before the *Right Honourable the Lord Mayor*, as having ſomewhat of importance to Communicate unto him, which being admitted, he did there make a very large and material Confeſſion and Diſcovery, with which

which, on the *Saturday* his Lordſhip and ſome Aldermen attended the King and Council; and thereupon before the Council, on *Sunday*, Mr. *Dangerfield* and Mrs. *Celier* were Confronted, He teſtifying how ſhe gave him Two Daggers wherewith to kill the Right Honourable the Earl of *Shafiſbury*, which he Eſſayed, but was by Providence prevented: And when he returned, Mrs. *Celier* upbraided him, calling him *White-Liver'd Rogue*, and *Cowardly-Dogg*, *&c.* and ſaid, *you ſhall ſee what a Woman dares do for the Catholick Cauſe*, and ſo went her ſelf with a Dagger to attempt my Lords Life, but could not get an opportunity; ſhe denied all, but her Maid proved that ſhe carried Two Guineys from her to *Dangerfield*, and was ordered to bid him, *To be ſure to be firm and conſtant.*

Mr. *Dangerfield* likewiſe ſet forth a New Deſign to *Kill* His Majeſty, and charged the Earl of *Caſtlemain* and the Lady *Powis* as principally concerned therein, and that he himſelf was *imployed* to do the horrid Murther, and that he had received ſome encouragement from Mr. *John Gadbury* an Aſtrologer, who upon Erecting the Scheme of his Nativity ſhould ſay---*He was a bold brisk fellow, and fit for ſuch a work*; as alſo that he had received moneys of one *Rigaut* a *French* Merchant (formerly living in *Virginia*) to carry on theſe Deſigns. Upon a full Examination of all which, the Ld. *Caſtlemain* was by a new Warrant ſent to the *Tower*, (having not long before been Bail'd from thence, being accuſed by Dr. *Oats* for Treaſon in the Old Popiſh Plot) Mr. *Rigaut* to *Newgate*, and Mr. *Gadbury* to the *Gatehouſe*; as for the Lady *Powis*, ſhe was then diſmiſſed, on engagement to appear again when required; But on *Novemb.* 4, being further Examined, and divers notable Circumſtances, which ſhe denied, being by other perſons (beſides Mr. *Dangerfield*) proved againſt her, ſhe was, by Order of the Board, committed Priſoner to the *Tower*, for High-Treaſon in conſpiring the death of the King.

Theſe Intervening Diſcoveries were a means to prevent the before-named *Courtees* (who was a *Bird* of the ſame *Feather*) from proceeding further, otherwiſe a better Account might have been given of him, who did abſcond, but is very lately taken; And on *Saturday* the 1ſt. of this inſtant *Novemb.* Collonel *Walcupp* (one of His Majeſties Juſtices of the Peace for the County of *Middleſex*) did take the Examination of the ſaid Woman at the *Heaven-Tavern*, in the preſence of divers perſons, which was in all things to the effect and purport herein before-recited.

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